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HISTORY IN THE HOUSE

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200th Anniversary of the House of Representatives

THE FIRST CONGRESS: INAUGURATING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

In the coming months, a series of events highlighted by a joint meeting of Congress on March 2 will commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the convening of the First Congress in New York City on March 4, 1789. The various bicentennial observances mark not only the origins of the House of Representatives and the Senate but the establishment of the entire system of government outlined by the Constitution. Under the terms of the Constitution, Congress bore a special responsibility in implementing the institutions of government. Bicentennial events and publications will explain Congress's role in the founding of the federal government and the central role played by the legislative branch throughout the nation's history.

The transfer of authority from the Congress of the Articles of Confederation to the First Federal Congress appeared remarkably simple if not inconsequential. At the close of day on March 3, 1789, thirteen cannon in New York City saluted each state represented in the old Continental Congress. The following morning the same cannon saluted the eleven states that had ratified the Constitution and would send Members to the first session of Congress. To a casual observer in March of 1789, the new Congress appeared little different from the old body except that the federal legislature now consisted of two houses as did the legislatures of most states. Over half of the Members of the House of Representatives and Senate had been delegates to the Continental Congress. The seat of government remained in New York City, if only temporarily. The new Congress convened in the old City Hall building at Broad and Wall Streets in lower Manhattan just as the Continental Congress had met there since January of 1785. Throughout March as Members waited in vain for the quorum that did not appear in the House until April 1 and in the Senate on April 6, the federal Congress seemed plagued by the same indifference and inattention that undermined the credibility of the old Congress.

But just as the old City Hall was transformed into an elegant Federal Hall replete with republican iconog-

In December 1790 the First Congress convened its third session in Philadelphia at Congress Hall, pictured here to the left. The government remained in Philadelphia until moving to Washington in 1800. *Library of Congress.*

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raphy, so the federal Congress marked a significant change from the governing body of the Articles of Confederation. The establishment of a bicameral federal legislature was the fulfillment on the national level of the revolutionary promise of republican government and constitutional order. The convening of the First Congress inaugurated a new era of truly national politics.

In accordance with the duties and authority prescribed by the Constitution, the First Congress carried out a variety of actions denied to the government under the Articles of Confederation but common to all subsequent Congresses. The first debate in the House of Representatives examined possible sources of revenue and the proper degree of protectionism. Members faced the risks of determining their own salaries and accounting for their actions to a watchful constituency. The First Congress enacted regulation of the young nation's commerce and laid the foundation of a foreign policy.

These obvious continuities with later Congresses, however, obscure the unique character of the First Congress. The opening Congress was as much a part of the process of establishing a federal government as it was an ongoing legislative institution. The delegates at the Constitutional Convention reserved for the First Congress the task of completing the outline of the new government. The ratification conventions in the states placed on Congress additional responsibilities for finishing the work of the Constitutional Convention. The decisions of this legislative assembly determined much of the constitutional balance and role of the federal government in years to come.

Article II of the Constitution made only passing reference to executive departments. During its opening session that met from March to September of 1789, the Congress enacted the legislation creating the Treasury, State, and War departments and defining the responsibilities of the respective secretaries. The Constitution's provisions for the three branches of the federal government

Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania was elected the first Speaker of the House on April 1, 1789. He also served as Speaker in the Third Congress. *Architect of the Capitol.*

were least specific in regard to the federal judiciary. Article III described the jurisdiction of the federal courts but left for Congress the determination of the proper structure of the Supreme Court and the appropriateness of lower courts. In the Judiciary Act of September 1789, Congress established a federal court system with the authority to enforce the supremacy of the Constitution while maintaining a jurisdictional balance with state courts.

Early in the First Congress, James Madison sought to answer the most persistent criticism of the new Constitution with a series of proposed amendments. Drawing from the more than two-hundred suggestions offered by the state ratification conventions, Madison drafted the amendments that eventually became the Bill of Rights. Madison was careful to exclude any amendments that would structurally alter the government planned by the Federal Convention. The ten amendments approved by the states provided a constitutional guarantee of traditional liberties at the heart of the revolutionary movement and further defined the federal system.

The Constitution granted Congress authority to exercise exclusive legislation for a district to serve as the seat of government. The convention delegates made no attempt to fix that seat, and the Continental Congress could agree only on a temporary meeting in New York City. To the First Congress fell the difficult and controversial task of deciding the permanent residence of the federal government. Advocates of New York City, Philadelphia, central Pennsylvania, and the Potomac region offered their colleagues contrasting descriptions of the beneficial climates and potential for development in each location. In the end, the selection of the Maryland shore of the Potomac River followed the agreement of Southern Members to support Alexander Hamilton's plans for federal assumption of state debts incurred during the Revolution.

To meet the challenge of completing the outline of the Constitution and inaugurating the federal government, the first session of the House of Representatives was fortunate to draw together Members with a broad range of talent and experience. The dominant personality was James Madison who played a central role in drafting the Constitution and was determined to initiate the kind of government he envisioned. His close relationship with George Washington granted him a voice in the executive as well as the legislative branch. Eight other delegates to the Federal Convention won election as Representatives to the First Congress. Among them was Roger Sherman whose national service dated back to the First Continental Congress in 1774. For its first Speaker, the House elected a veteran of the Continental Congress, Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania. The imposing Muhlenberg was an ordained Lutheran minister who had served as Speaker of the Pennsylvania assembly and president of the state ratification convention.

In the weeks preceding the first quorum of the House, Madison expressed his fear that the newly-elected Members included "a very scanty proportion who will share in the drudgery of business." While certain Members contributed more than others and Madison assumed the single largest burden, the accomplishments of the First Congress remain distinctive and impressive

after two-hundred years. The drafting of the Bill of Rights, the fixing of the capital city, and the creation of the administrative machinery for all three branches of the government render the record of the First Congress unique.

The First Congress's exercise of its constitutional authority was equally impressive. By the adjournment of its third session in March of 1791, the First Congress had provided for the national revenue, approved a plan for the repayment of the debt, enacted commercial regulations for the young republic, established a Bank of the United States, commissioned a national census, and offered the kind of energetic government denied the Congress of the Articles of Confederation.

In completing the work of the Constitutional Convention and presiding over the inauguration of the federal government, the First Congress also established a precedent for an active legislative branch that would embody the principles of the American Revolution in the new republic. The bicentennial Congress is an appropriate opportunity to commemorate this most accomplished of all Congresses and to enhance understanding of the role of the House of Representatives over the past two-hundred years.

New Bicentennial Edition of the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress *is Published*

The publication of the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774–1989: Bicentennial Edition* marks the opening of the One Hundred First Congress and the beginning of the celebration of Congress' two-hundredth anniversary. This edition is the first revision of the *Biographical Directory* since 1971. Its 2,104 pages include entries for each of the more than 11,000 representatives, senators, delegates and resident commissioners who have served since Congress first convened in New York City on March 4, 1789. The volume also includes biographies of delegates to the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1789 and rosters of state delegations and elected officers in the First through One Hundredth Congress.

The bicentennial edition, which is the result of a joint effort of the Office for the Bicentennial and the Senate Historical Office, is part of a tradition dating back to Charles Lanman's *Dictionary of Congress*, published in 1859. The new volume, the first ever prepared by a staff of professional historians, also represents an effort to make the *Biographical Directory* a more consistent and reliable reference source that reflects recent scholarship on Congress. Modern students of congressional history have been aware of the limitations of earlier editions of the *Biographical Directory*. The process of revising and expanding the volume made clear that many of those limitations were rooted in the unique development of the directory over the past 130 years.

Charles Lanman devised his original *Dictionary of Congress* in an attempt to secure a steady income from Congress. After privately publishing the first edition, Lanman received congressional support for a revision in 1864 and Senate patronage for a volume in 1866. Two more privately published editions suffered poor sales in competition with an expanded *Congressional Directory*, printed by Congress and prepared by Benjamin Perley Poore. Lanman included congressmen in the *Biographical Annals of the Civil Government* of 1876 but again faced competition from Poore in the latter's *Political Register and Congressional Directory*. The search for governmental patronage and congressional sales left their mark on these early volumes. Sitting Members received the predominant share of the compilers' attention, and both Lanman and Poore avoided the substance of politics that might have offended their readers.

In 1878 Benjamin Perley Poore, a well-known journalist in nineteenth-century Washington, published the *Political Register and Congressional Directory*, a predecessor of the *Biographical Directory*.

Beginning with the *Biographical Congressional Directory* of 1903, congressional staff took responsibility for periodic updates. The compilers of the editions in 1913 and 1928 developed new entries based largely on new research, and these entries survived virtually intact through the edition of 1971. Many of the revisions in these volumes were based on questionnaires distributed to postmasters in the hometowns of deceased Members. The postmasters in turn gathered the requested information from local historians and librarians as well as descendants or older residents of the town. Descendants of Members of Congress sometimes sent in legendary accounts full of subjective comments about illustrious careers. The compilers of the 1928 edition rejected the obviously extraneous information such as an annotated genealogy dating to the Plantagenet monarchs. In many cases, however, family legend and personal recollections entered the *Directory* without question. The resulting entries contained more consistent categories of data than their nineteenth-century predecessors but were unreliable and only inadvertently addressed the concerns of historians and political scientists. The twentieth-century volumes also continued to omit most information about congressional careers.

In his eagerness to avoid any appearance of partisanship, Lanman refused to include any reference to party affiliation. The compilers of the editions of 1903, 1913 and 1928 determined the party labels that survived into the 1971 volume. The specific designations were frequently at odds with all historical scholarship and provoked the most serious criticism of the *Biographical Directory*. The edition of 1913 accepted the popular

myth about the ancient origins of the Democratic Party and listed James Madison, Albert Gallatin and other prominent Jeffersonian Republicans as members of the party of Woodrow Wilson. The compilers assumed that the two-party system existed at the inauguration of the federal government and accordingly divided the members of the First Congress.

The reliance on family accounts of party membership led the compilers to include Members in certain parties long before such organizations came into existence. Thus Whigs appeared as early as 1810, more than 20 years before that term was applied to certain opponents of the Jackson administration. Several congressmen, such as Alfred Conkling of New York, were listed as Anti-Jackson Democrats in 1820 or before. While Andrew Jackson always had an ability to create enemies, in 1820 that political label could apply to no one save, perhaps, a Seminole.

The editors of the bicentennial edition have sought to remedy many of the long-standing shortcomings of the *Biographical Directory*. The new volume includes a more complete record of congressional service including reference to all standing committee chairmen in the First through One Hundredth Congress and all leadership positions in the Congresses since those offices have been formally recognized.

The most ambitious revision has been a complete review of all party labels used in previous editions. In this process, the Office for the Bicentennial and the Senate Historical Office relied in large part on the research of Kenneth Martis for his *Historical Atlas of Political Parties in the United States Congress* (1989). The new edition of the *Biographical Directory* indicates the diversity of political parties represented in Congress over the past 200 years and the often erratic development of the modern two-party system.

As part of the general revision of the *Biographical Directory*, the editorial staff reviewed all existing entries and attempted to verify the data through other printed works and primary sources. Earlier editions of the directory often frustrated researchers with inconsistent categories of information. The present volume includes more nearly uniform categories of information and more standardized phrasing. The Office for the Bicentennial and the Senate Historical Office contacted all former and sitting Members of Congress in order to incorporate their suggested revisions within the standardized format.

Albert Gallatin, a leader of the Jeffersonian Republicans in Congress during the 1790s, was erroneously listed as a Democrat in earlier editions of the *Biographical Directory*. Gallatin's tremendous popularity in the nineteenth century is reflected in the *Biographical Directory* by the numerous Congressmen named after him. *Senate Historical Office.*

The inclusion of bibliographical citations makes the bicentennial edition of the *Biographical Directory* more useful as a first step in research on Members of Congress. Individual entries note all *Dictionary of American Biography* essays as well as relevant books, articles, memoirs and documentary editions.

The publication of the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress* is the first step in establishing this familiar reference book as a definitive source on congressional history. The work of revising and supplementing the entries will be an ongoing process. The Office for the Bicentennial has compiled information on the election of 1988 and other changes that occurred since the *Biographical Directory* went to press in September. The historical staff in this office and the Senate Historical Office continue to search for bibliographical information and new data on congressional service of former Members. Plans are under way to provide Members, staff and researchers with regular updates of the *Biographical Directory* in electronic form.

Research Guide on House History Now Available

In 1984 the Office for the Bicentennial initiated a nationwide survey to locate manuscript collections and other research materials relating to former Members of the House of Representatives. The results of that survey are presented in *A Guide to Research Collections of Former Members of the United States House of Representatives 1789–1987*, published in December 1988. Volunteer state coordinators and archivists, historians, librarians, and records managers throughout the country located relevant collections and reported information for the *Guide*. The Office for the Bicentennial conducted a systematic survey of the master card catalog of the National Union Catalog of Manuscripts Collections at the Library of Congress as well as a search of published guides to manuscript libraries. Individual researchers also contributed information for the *Guide*.

The *Guide* contains entries for approximately 3300 former Members of the House and references from 592 repositories across the country. For additional reference the *Guide* includes mailing addresses of cited repositories, a list of documentary editing projects relating to the history of the federal government, and the names of Representatives whose papers have not been located.

The *Guide* makes the rich history contained in the collections of former Members more accessible to researchers by providing a central listing of the location of scattered resources. The collections include correspondence, diaries, oral histories, photographs and other historical materials that supplement the official

records of the House of Representatives at the National Archives and the printed record of legislation, floor proceedings, and committee activity. The research collections contain information on the wide-ranging careers of Members as well as their congressional service. The *Guide* thus becomes an aid to the study of various aspects of local and state history and the diverse contributions of Members before and after they held office.

Copies of the *Guide* will be distributed to congressional offices, the federal depository libraries, and repositories that participated in the survey. Additional copies are available from the Office for the Bicentennial.

Founder's Thoughts on the House of Representatives

In anticipation of the joint meeting commemorating the two-hundredth anniversary of the First Congress, the Office for the Bicentennial has prepared a collection of historical documents relating to the establishment of the House of Representatives, *The Origin of the House of Representatives: A Documentary Record*. These documents chronicle the origins of the House from its initial conceptualization in the Constitutional Convention through the first congressional elections and the precedent-setting work of the First Congress.

Selections from James Madison's notes on the Federal Convention summarize the debate on unique characteristics of the House such as popular elections and the authority to originate all revenue bills. In *The Federalist* Madison discussed the proposed House in seven essays that will be reprinted in full along with one of Hamilton's essays defending the House's privilege of regulating its own elections. Several essays from Anti-Federalist publicists describe popular apprehensions about the proposed Constitution and its outline of congressional authority.

Private correspondence and newspaper editorials from the time of the first House elections reveal an uncertainty about the democratic process and a political culture that often seems distant from our own. The First Congress addressed many issues familiar to all subsequent Congresses, but the debate on constitutional amendments was one of many indications that the inaugural Congress faced a unique responsibility in making the federal republic a practical plan of government. The original text of the amendments proposed by the House will be included along with other legislation and petitions presented to the First Congress. The various documents in this collection demonstrate the centrality of the House in the founding of our national government and the House's importance as the popular branch of the legislature.

Joseph Hayne Rainey of South Carolina was the first black Member of the House of Representatives. He served from 1870 to 1879 and later was an unsuccessful candidate for Clerk of the House. *Library of Congress.*

Black Americans in Congress

At the time of the elections for the First Congress, the great majority of black Americans were held in slavery and barred from political participation. The law frequently denied even free blacks the right of suffrage and access to political office. Only in 1870, after the enforcement of the Reconstruction Acts of 1867 and ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, did blacks first win seats in Congress. Hiram Revels of Mississippi became the first black to serve in Congress when he took his seat in the Senate on February 25, 1870. Joseph Rainey of South Carolina became the first black Member of the House of Representatives when he took the oath of office on December 12, 1870. Between 1870 and the opening of the One Hundred First Congress, 65 blacks served in Congress.

As part of the observance of two-hundred years of congressional history, the Office for the Bicentennial will publish a new edition of *Black Americans in Congress*. This volume will contain expanded entries for Members included in the original edition of 1976 and new essays for all black Members elected since that date.

The collected biographies of black Americans who served in the House and Senate provide an important perspective on the history of Congress and the role of blacks in American politics. Blacks in Congress regularly accepted the dual responsibilities of representing their specific districts and acting as national spokesmen for blacks throughout the United States. The careers of these sixty-two Representatives and three Senators also reflect black political fortunes on all levels of American society.

The first black congressmen elected during Reconstruction found the national legislature an effective forum for the advocacy of political equality. These early Members also became the focus of Republican efforts to build a political constituency in the South. The black representatives elected between Reconstruction and the turn of the century were the most prominent indication of blacks' success with political organization on a local level throughout the South.

In the 1890s and early 1900s, a series of state constitutional conventions and revisals of election codes effectively disfranchised most blacks in the South. For nearly three decades no black won election to Congress. During World War I and in the following decade, however, black migration to Chicago and other northern cities established the foundation for political organization in urban areas. Oscar De Priest's election in 1928 as a Representative from Chicago began a slow but steady succession of political victories in the North. Over the next three decades additional blacks won congressional seats in Chicago, New York City, Detroit and Philadelphia. In the wake of the civil-rights movement and the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act of

1965 blacks regained House seats in the South. In 1972, Barbara Jordan of Texas and Andrew Young of Georgia became the first black Representatives elected from the South since George H. White of North Carolina left office in 1901.

The publication of *Black Americans in Congress* will commemorate 65 diverse individuals and illuminate an important chapter in the evolution of Congress.

Women in Congress

The Office for the Bicentennial will prepare a new edition of *Women in Congress*, another publication originally released during the Revolutionary bicentennial in 1976. Since that time 31 additional women have served in Congress, bringing the total to 126. Publication is scheduled for June 1989 in honor of the birth date of Representative Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to serve in Congress.

At the inauguration of the federal government in 1789, women enjoyed the suffrage in a few areas of the country but soon were excluded from the business of politics. During the second half of the nineteenth century, several states in the West provided women the vote and the right to hold office. At the same time a national woman's suffrage movement began the long struggle toward a constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the vote in all elections across the country. Rankin won election from Montana in 1916, four years before ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment secured women the vote in all states. Since the congressional elections of 1920, every Congress has included women Members.

In the years following Rankin's first term, women from a broad spectrum of political life have served in the House and Senate. Women have represented forty states. Seventy-two of the women were Democrats; fifty were Republicans. The great majority of women in Congress have supported some form of women's rights, but they have not been united by a common ideology or constituency. Rather they have all played a role in opening political offices to women and bringing women an equal voice in national affairs.

Jeannette Rankin, a Republican from Montana, was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives. She served from 1917 to 1919 and again from 1941 to 1942.

While thirty-nine of the women Members were elected or appointed to serve out the unexpired terms of their husbands, many of these went on to significant congressional careers of their own. Edith Nourse Rogers filled the vacancy caused by the death of her husband and won reelection to another 17 terms. In the Eightieth and Eighty-third Congresses, she served as chairwoman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs. Seven women have served as committee chairs in the House and Senate.

By bringing together the biographies of all women who have served in Congress this publication will depict the political struggles and advancement of women in the national government during the past seven decades.

Exhibit Features History of the Old House Chamber

From 1807 until 1857 the House of Representatives met in the chamber that now serves as Statuary Hall. Beginning this winter that hall will be the setting for an exhibit on the history of the House during those years and the architecture of the chamber. Entitled "The Splendid Hall," this exhibit prepared by the Office for the Bicentennial and the Office of the Architect of the Capitol highlights a period in which the House was often the predominant branch of the federal government.

During its years in the old hall, the House frequently took the lead in establishing national policy for westward expansion and economic development and became increasingly embroiled in the controversy over the future of slavery in the United States. The exhibit includes copies of paintings, maps, and documents that illustrate the House's role in national affairs during the first half of the nineteenth century.

Two of the most notable representatives of the period, Henry Clay and John Quincy Adams, receive special attention. Clay was elected Speaker in 1811 on his first day as a Member from Kentucky and went on to become the most powerful Speaker of the antebellum period. Two years after leaving the presidency, John Quincy Adams entered the House in 1831 as a Representative from Massachusetts. During his seventeen years in the House, Adams earned the title "Old Man Eloquent" for his repeated anti-slavery appeals and his rigid adherence to principle.

Among the objects included in the exhibit are the desk of Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, a sketch of the Hall drawn by Samuel F. B. Morse, and drawings of Benjamin Henry Latrobe who served as principal architect supervising the construction of the chamber and its reconstruction after the fire of 1814.

Members and Scholars Gather for Bicentennial Symposium

On February 9 and 10, 1989, historians, political scientists, and journalists will join sitting and former Members of Congress for a symposium devoted to "Understanding Congress." This conference is sponsored by the U.S. Congress and the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. Five topical panels will examine such issues as Congress and the separation of powers, the effect of media and public opinion on Congress, the challenge of writing congressional biography, and the research opportunities found in the diverse sources for congressional history. Specialists in these fields will present papers, and former and sit-

ting Members of Congress will follow with their comments. David McCullough, author of wide-ranging books on American history such as *The Path Between the Seas and Mornings on Horseback*, will present the keynote address.

The proceedings subsequently will be incorporated in a published edition.

Major New Atlas Surveys Congressional Elections

The biennial election of all House Members and one-third of the Senators is the most frequent expression of the popular will on the national level. A survey of elections to Congress reveals much about the development of the modern political parties, the shifts in party allegiances throughout American history, and the diversity of political organizations which sent representatives to the national legislature. Professor Kenneth C. Martis of West Virginia University has painstakingly mapped all congressional elections since 1788 for the first time in history. In his *Historical Atlas of Political Parties in the United States Congress* (New York: Macmillan and Company, 1989), Martis combines detailed research on more than 30,000 congressional elections since 1788 and his skill as a geographer to create national maps of party affiliations in the First through One Hundredth Congresses.

One-hundred color maps vividly display such developments as the rise of the first political parties in the 1790s, the ominously sectional nature of the Republican Party on the eve of the Civil War, the regional strengths of the Populist Party, the rise and fall of the solid South, and the fate of various third parties. This visual display of political party history also represents a major revision of party designations for individual congressmen.

This new *Atlas* complements Martis's earlier work *The Historical Atlas of United States Congressional Districts: 1789–1983*, which was the first comprehensive account of the geographical outline of congressional districts throughout American history.

Ways and Means Committee History

In July of 1989, the House Committee on Ways and Means will publish a committee history written by Donald R. Kennon of the Capitol Historical Society with the assistance of Rebecca M. Rogers. The presentation of this volume is particularly appropriate for the year of the congressional bicentennial because Ways and Means traces its origin to a committee formed in the early months of the First Congress.

The early reliance on a Ways and Means committee for consideration of revenue bills followed the precedents of the British Parliament and the colonial legislatures. In the early years of the federal government, the committee played a crucial role in the development of legislation related to the national debt and governmental finance. As the principal congressional committee responsible for the introduction of revenue bills, the Committee on Ways and Means remained one of the most influential committees throughout the history of the House. This volume will examine the evolution of the Committee's jurisdiction and its legislative accomplishments over the past two-hundred years. The work will give special attention to the powerful chairmen and other personalities who influenced the committee's history.

The publication of the Ways and Means Committee history is one of several events cosponsored by the committee and the U. S. Capitol Historical Society during the two-hundredth anniversary of Congress. A symposium on selected topics associated with the committee's history and a documentary film are planned for later in the year.

National Archives Publishes House Records Guide

Since the late 1940s the National Archives has served as the depository of the rich collection of official records from throughout the history of the House of Representatives. The sheer bulk of the records, more than 30,000 cubic feet, and the surprising diversity in the types of documents have presented a formidable challenge to researchers. A new guide prepared by the Legislative Archives Division at the National Archives will offer the most complete description of House records ever compiled. The guide is directed to the general research public and will advise new researchers on the most effective strategies for approaching the vast array of material at the Archives. A general description of printed and unpublished House sources precedes the chronological survey of House committee records. A companion volume, *Guide to Records of the United States Senate at the National Archives* also will be published during the congressional bicentennial.

Premiere Showing of Documentary Film in Commemoration Of 200th Anniversary of Congress

PBS Television will broadcast the nationwide premiere of Ken Burns' documentary film *The Congress* on March 20, 1989, at 9 PM Eastern time. This 90-minute film offers impressions of Congress as an active national legislature and the two-hundred year heritage of the House of Representatives and the Senate. It portrays the history of the institution through historical personalities as diverse as Henry Clay, Joe Cannon, George Norris and Everett Dirksen. Interviews with journalists and historians combine with historical portraits, photographs, and archival film to convey a sense of the institution's development and its continuing role as the forum of the people's representatives. Rare footage encompasses the full spectrum of congressional activity from Franklin Roosevelt's speech before a joint session of Congress on December 8, 1941, to scenes in the House gymnasium in the 1920s, where Members exercised for the cameras wearing coats and ties. The historical survey of Congress covers the founders of the early Congresses, the rise of the great orators before the Civil War, the age of the bosses, the reformers of the Progressive era and the New Deal, and the legislative managers of the modern era.

The Congress follows such highly-acclaimed films by Ken Burns as *Huey Long* and *The Statue of Liberty*. This film was produced in cooperation with WETA television and underwritten by Ameritech corporation. After its broadcast premiere, the film and accompanying lesson plans will be available for schools.

"The First Federal Congress" Exhibit

On March 1, 1989, the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution will open an exhibit on the First Federal Congress. Drawing from their own rich collection of portraits from the early republic and featuring well-known portraits on loan from other institutions, the Smithsonian will present a view of the personalities that contributed to the accomplishments of the First Congress. Other objects will illustrate the process of election, the politics and legislation of the early Congress, and the daily lives of Members while they met in New York City and Philadelphia.

Jeremiah Wadsworth of Connecticut served in the First through Third Congresses. Jonathan Trumbull's portrait of Wadsworth and his son Daniel appears in the National Portrait Gallery exhibit on the First Congress. ***Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut. Gift of Mr. Faneuil Adams.***

A catalog accompanying the exhibit provides a detailed description of all items on display as well as the most complete narrative history of the First Congress available in published form. The volume also contains a state by state account of elections for each seat in the House and Senate.

Readings for Young People:

Bruce A. Ragsdale. *The House of Representatives*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1989.

Donald A. Ritchie. *The Senate*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.

Richard B. Bernstein and Jerome Agel. *Into the Third Century. The Congress*. New York: Walker and Company, 1989.

Richard B. Bernstein and Jerome Agel. *Into the Third Century. The Presidency*. New York: Walker and Company, 1989.

Richard B. Bernstein and Jerome Agel. *Into the Third Century. The Supreme Court*. New York: Walker and Company, 1989.

Exhibits

"The Tides of Party Politics: Two Centuries of Congressional Elections, 1789–1989," featuring maps from Kenneth Martis's *Historical Atlas of Political Parties in the United States Congress*, opens at the Library of Congress, Madison Building, on February 8, 1989.

"American Voices: 200 Years of Speaking Out." This National Archives exhibit opens March 3, 1989, and celebrates American representative government seen through petitions from American citizens to their government.

"This Fierce Spirit of Liberty." Opens May 30, 1989, at the National Archives. Exhibit of documents relating to the Bill of Rights.

"'A Necessary Fence...' The United States Senate in Its First One Hundred Years." Opens June 6, 1989. Produced by the Office of the Senate Curator. Sponsored by the Senate Bicentennial Commission.

"'To Make all Laws...' The Congress of the United States, 1789–1989." Beginning September 28, 1989, at the Library of Congress.

Major Historical Dates Related to the 200th Anniversary of Congress

March 4, 1789. — The day the United States Constitution began operation. The first convening of the First Federal Congress in New York City.

April 1, 1789. — The first quorum achieved in the U.S. House of Representatives.

April 6, 1789. — The first quorum achieved in the U.S. Senate. House and Senate met jointly in the Senate chamber to count the ballots of the presidential electors. George Washington received 69 votes, John Adams 34. Thirty-five other votes were scattered among ten other candidates.

April 30, 1789. — George Washington inaugurated in New York City as the first President of the United States under the Constitution. The oath was administered by Robert R. Livingston, chancellor of the State of New York, on the balcony of Federal Hall, at the corner of Broad and Wall Street.

July 27, 1789. — Congress established the Department of Foreign Affairs (later changed to Department of State).

August 7, 1789. — Congress established the War Department (later changed to Department of Defense).

September 2, 1789. — Congress established the Treasury Department.

September 22, 1789. — Congress created the Office of Postmaster General.

September 24, 1789. — Congress passed the Federal Judiciary Act, which established the Supreme Court, 13 district courts, and three circuit courts, and created the Office of the Attorney General.

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